AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A method of producing a ceramic comprising:

preparing a ceramic slurry comprising a powder of ceramic crystal grains having a shape-anisotropy mixed with a ceramic raw material powder or a calcined ceramic raw material powder, or both;

forming the ceramic slurry to produce a sheet product;

placing the sheet product into a metallic mold having a sidewall such that the sheet product is spaced apart from a sidewall of the metallic mold;

unaxially pressing the sheet product so that the length of the product in the direction parallel to the pressing axis is decreased compared to that before the pressing, and the area of a plane perpendicular to the pressing axis of the product is increased compared to that before the pressing, whereby formed product has an increased orientation degree and is an oriented formed product; and

sintering the resulting oriented formed product.

2. (Original) A method of producing a ceramic according to claim 1, wherein the pressing is such that the length of the oriented formed product in the direction parallel to the pressing axis is decreased up to about half of the length of the product before pressing.

3. (Original) A method of producing a ceramic according to claim 2, wherein the amount of the ceramic crystal grains having a shape-anisotropy are in the range of about 25 to 52% by weight based on 100% by weight of the mixed powder.

4. (Previously presented) A method of producing a ceramic according to claim 3, wherein the ceramic crystal grains having a shape-anisotropy are flat and have a sheet-shape, and the aspect ratio is in the range of about 4 to 10.

5. (Original) A method of producing a ceramic according to claim 4, wherein the aspect ratio is in the range of about 5 to 10.

6. (Original) A method of producing a ceramic according to claim 5, wherein the amount of the ceramic crystal grains having a shape-anisotropy are in the range of about 45 to 50% by weight based on 100% by weight of the mixed powder.

7. (Original) A method of producing a ceramic according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the ceramic crystal grains having a shape-anisotropy are in the range of about 25 to 52% by weight based on 100% by weight of the mixed powder.

8. (Previously presented) A method of producing a ceramic according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic crystal grains having a shape-anisotropy are flat and have a sheet-shape, and the aspect ratio is in the range of about 4 to 10.

9. (Currently amended) A method of producing a ceramic according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic crystal grains having a shape-anisotropy are flat and have a sheet-shape, and the aspect ratio is in the range of about 5 to 10.

10. (Original) A method of producing a ceramic according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the ceramic crystal grains having a shape-anisotropy are in the range of about 45 to 50% by weight based on 100% by weight of the mixed powder.

11. (Original) A method of producing a ceramic according to claim 1, wherein the powder mixture is of ceramic crystal grains having a shape-anisotropy mixed with a ceramic raw material powder.

12. (Original) A method of producing a ceramic according to claim 1, wherein the powder mixture is of ceramic crystal grains having a shape-anisotropy mixed with a calcined ceramic raw material powder.

13. (Original) A method of producing a ceramic according to claim 1, wherein the powder mixture is of ceramic crystal grains having a shape-anisotropy mixed with a calcined ceramic raw material powder and a ceramic raw material powder.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) A method of producing a ceramic according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic whose crystal grains have a shape-anisotropy have a layered perovskite crystal structure.

16. (Previously presented) A method of producing a ceramic according to claim 15, wherein the layered perovskite crystal structure ceramic is a piezoelectric ceramic.